

71 JUN 4 PM 7:02

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

TOP SECRET 042133Z JUN 71 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
VIA CAS CHANNELS
FROM: MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON
CITE: WHS 1053
JUNE 4, 1971

TODAY'S LOS ANGELES TIMES CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY GEORGE MCARTHUR, THE TIMES STAFF WRITER IN SAIGON, WHICH IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ALLEGED WHITE HOUSE GIMMICKRY ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECENT POW EXCHANGE OFFER AND ITS UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES.

IT APPEARS FROM THE SOURCE OF THE ARTICLE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL, PERHAPS IN THE EMBASSY OR ELSEWHERE IN SAIGON, HAS DISTORTED THE FACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. - SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFER TO REPATRIATE THE 576 SICK AND WOUNDED POWS AND EVEN MORE SERIOUSLY DISTORTED THE MOTIVATION UNDERLYING THE PROPOSAL.

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD INSURE THAT NO FURTHER SPECULATION IS GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE MCARTHUR STORY WHICH HAS TYPICALLY STIRRED UNFAVORABLE SPECULATION HERE. I AM SORRY THAT I HAVE TO ADD TO YOUR MORE IMPORTANT BURDENS BUT AS YOU KNOW, TROUBLESOME STORIES OF THIS KIND HAVE A WAY OF EXACTING THEIR PRICE.

WARM REGARDS.

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VIA CAS BACK CHANNEL

WHS 1054

June 4, 1971

FOR: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *Haydn*

Today's Los Angeles Times carries an article by George McArthur, the Times Staff writer in Saigon, which is highly critical of alleged White House gimmickry associated with the recent POW exchange offer and its unfortunate consequences.

It appears from the source of the article that an individual, perhaps in the Embassy or elsewhere in Saigon, has distorted the facts associated with the U.S. -South Vietnamese offer to repatriate the 576 sick and wounded POWs and even more seriously distorted the motivation underlying the proposal.

I would be grateful if you would insure that no further speculation is generated as a result of the McArthur story which has typically stirred unfavorable speculation here. I am sorry that I have to add to your more important burdens but as you know, troublesome stories of this kind have a way of exacting their price.

Warm regards.

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